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## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a handheld device with a housing, a light source, an output aperture and a diffuser, the device providing power sufficient to effect hair removal, yet the diffused light being below levels recognized as safe for use without eye protection. The device meets the maximum permissible exposure as set forth in international standards based on formulas recognized by the standards for calculating such exposure. International Publication WO/03/049633 to Slatkine discloses a laser device that is described as being eye safe. Applicant provided two Rule 132 Declarations from leading authorities that effectively negate Slatkine by proving mathematically that Slatkine cannot meet the standards based on the disclosed power and fluence in WO/03/049633. Additional declarations by physicians declare the device has been independently certified as a Class 1 laser (eye safe) under the standards set by the Center for Devices and Radiological Health of the U. S. Government and approved by the FDA for laser hair removal as a Class 1 laser.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry M. Johnson, III whose telephone number is (571) 272-4768. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Henry M. Johnson, Primary Examiner Art Unit 3739